AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5, 7, 9, and 14 as set out in the following complete listing of the claims of the application.

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) An appliance, comprising:

a controller and a receiver connected thereto, being [[and]] effective to receive a device identifier from a remote communications device; and

a network interface connectable to an external relay server corresponding to the device identifier;

the controller being configured to:

transmit data corresponding to the device identifier to the relay server,

receive a profile address in response from the relay server,

transmit a request to an external profile server at the profile address,

receive one or more user preferences from the profile server, and

control the appliance based on the one or more user preferences.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the first remote device and the second remote device ~~correspond~~ corresponds to a portable device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the operation of an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving, at the appliance, first access data from memory of a first remote device, the first access data providing network access to first configuration data corresponding to a first set of user preferences on an external network;

receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the first configuration data via the network access;

configuring the appliance to a first configuration in accordance with the <u>at least a</u> portion of the first configuration data;

receiving, at the appliance, second access data to the appliance from a memory of a second remote device, the second access data providing network access to second configuration data corresponding to a second set of user preferences on the external network;

receiving at the appliance at least a portion of the second configuration data via the network access; <u>and</u>

reconfiguring the appliance to a second configuration in accordance with the <u>at least a</u> portion of the second configuration data,

wherein:

receiving <u>the</u> at least the portion of the first configuration data includes:

receiving first relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the first access data, and

receiving the <u>at least a</u> portion of the first configuration data made accessible via the network access by the first relay data; and

receiving <u>the</u> at least the portion of the second configuration data includes:

receiving second relay data responsive to an external network server identified in the second access data, and

receiving the <u>at least a</u> portion of the second configuration data made accessible via the network access by the second relay data.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the first and second remote devices corresponds to a radio frequency identification device.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein delivering the first and second access data includes co-locating the radio frequency identification device with the appliance.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first configuration data includes configuration data relating to the appliance and configuration data relating to another type of appliance.

14. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving, at the appliance, an address of an external relay server from a remote device,

transmitting, from the appliance, a first request to the relay server,

receiving, at the appliance, a profile address from the relay server, based on the first request,

transmitting, from the appliance, a second request to an external profile server corresponding to the profile address,

receiving, at the appliance, user preference data from the profile server, based on the second request, and

controlling the appliance in accordance with the user preference data.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the remote device is a radio-frequency identification device that transmits the address associated with the relay server.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further including:

receiving, at the appliance, an address associated with an other relay server from another remote device,

transmitting, from the appliance, a third request to the other relay server, based on the address associated with the other relay server,

receiving, at the appliance, an other profile address from the other relay server,

transmitting, from the appliance, a fourth request to an other profile server corresponding to the other profile address,

receiving, at the appliance, other user preference data from the other profile server, based on the fourth request, and

controlling the appliance in dependence upon at least a portion of the other user preference data.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the address of the relay server includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that is stored at the remote device.

18. (Previously presented) The appliance of claim 5, wherein the communications device is a wireless device that is remote from the appliance.

19. (Previously presented) The appliance of claim 18, wherein the device identifier includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with the relay server.

20. (Previously presented) The appliance of claim 5, wherein the controller is configured to determine an address of the relay server based on the device identifier.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein reconfiguring the appliance includes creating a composite of the portion of the first configuration data and the portion of the second configuration data.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further including reconfiguring the appliance to the first configuration after removal of the second remote device from a vicinity of the appliance.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, further including measuring a time duration after the removal of the second remote device, and wherein reconfiguring the appliance to the first configuration occurs when the time duration exceeds a predefined persistence period.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the first access data includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with a relay server.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the second access data includes an other Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with an other relay server.